THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes Sir, total 162 exploration blocks have been awarded to various Pvt. Companies/Joint ventures including National Oil Companies under six rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) held so far.

(b) Till February 2007, under six rounds of NELP, 162 Exploration blocks were awarded. Estimated initial in-place reserves in the blocks awarded under NELP till date is 27.27 MMT oil and 398.3 BCM gas.

(c) and (d) Oil/gas production from the exploration blocks results after exploration work and discoveries made, if any. Production Sharing Contract (PSC) has provision for phase-wise commitment of exploration work to be carried out by successful bidder. No time frame as such is imposed for commencement of production, however, after making a discovery, time frame is defined for carrying out development activities.

(e) Does not arise in view of above.

Recommendations of the Tariff Commission

†2358. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a suggestion for formulating a policy for price fixation of natural gas produced by ONGC and Oil India Ltd., has been given by the Tariff Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made by the said Commission;

(c) the prices of the gas fixed by the ONGC and Oil India Ltd. as per these recommendations; and

(d) the extent by which the above prices are more or less than their actual price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Tariff Commission

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

was requested to examine the producer price of gas produced by ONGC and OIL from their existing nominated blocks considering various factors like cost of prouduction, prices of alternate fuels, prices of natural gas from alternative sources, etc. The Tariff Commission has given suggestions on the issue of price fixation of natural gas produced by ONGC and OIL. However, the Commission has gone entirely by the normative cost of production basis and has ignored all the other bases. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has sent its views in this regard to Tariff Commission, which are being examined by them.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

ONGC's financial assistance in public interest

†2359. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURYAKANTBHAI ACHARYA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC provides any financial assistance for the works related to public interest (e.g. Construction of Library/Roads/Bridges / Schools, etc.) in and around the areas where units of ONGC are located;

(b) if so, the quantum of amount allotted each year for these works; and

(c) the amount spent by ONGC for the public interest works in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) ONGC provides financial assistance for following works under Corporate Citizenship Policy (CCP):—

(i) Education

(ii) Health Care

(iii) Entrepreneurship

(iv) Water Management, and

(v) Disaster relief

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.